

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT TO MOROCCO BY AMERICAN COUNCIL YOUNG POLITICAL
LEADERS DELEGATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NOTWITHSTANDING MOROCCAN PREOCCUPATION
WITH PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN AND WITH JUNE 3
ELECTIONS THEMSELVES (WHICH PREEMPTED FULL RANGE OF
POLITICAL CONTACTS), 5-MAN DELEGATION FROM AMERICAN
COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL) WAS ABLE
TO MEET BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF LOCAL INFLUENCE STRUCTURE
DURING MAY 30-JUNE 4 VISIT, INCLUDING GOM OFFICIALS,
ACADEMICS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND MEDIA REPS, THIRD-COUNTRY
DIPLOMATS, AND STUDENTS. ACYPL PROGRAM HERE FEATURED MIX OF
FORMAL CALLS AND INFORMAL FUNCTIONS, TOGETHER WITH AN
OVERNIGHT EXCURSION TO FEZ. ONE MOROCCAN PARTICIPANT
CHARACTERIZED PROGRAM AS "SINGLE MOST MEANINGFUL EVENT
OF ITS KIND I CAN REMEMBER". ACYPL MEMBERS THEMSELVES,
IN EXTENDED BRIEFING WITH AMBASSADOR AT END OF VISIT,
EMPHASIZED THE CANDOR AND OPENNESS WHICH THEY HAD FOUND
AMONG THEIR MOROCCAN CONTACTS. EMBASSY FOR ITS PART
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VIEWS ACYPL VISIT AS UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS WHICH CAN AND
WILL BE USED TO RAMIFY US-MOROCCAN EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES.
IN THIS CONNECTION, WE COMMEND THE HIGH CALIBRE OF THIS
FIRST ACYPL DELEGATION TO MOROCCO, APPRECIATE CU'S
EFFORTS TO SCHEDULE IT HERE, AND STRONGLY RECOMMEND
INCLUSION OF MOROCCO ON NEXT YEAR'S ACYPL ITINERARY.
END SUMMARY.

2. A 5-MAN DELEGATION FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL) VISITED MOROCCO MAY 30-JUNE 3.

LOCAL PREOCCUPATIONS WITH MOROCCO'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS DURING THIS PERIOD AND THE SCARCITY OF MANY POLITICAL FIGURES WHO WERE OFF CAMPAIGNING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY DID NOT PREVENT THE MISSION FROM MAKING MAXIMUM USE OF THIS HIGHLY TALENTED DELEGATION. ACYPL GROUP SERVED, IN EFFECT, AS MULTIPLE-PROGRAMMING PEG FOR EMBASSY'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERESTS. EARLY CALLS ON SELECTED GOM OFFICIALS (E.G., MFA EUROPEAN-AMERICAN DIRECTOR BELKORA, MINISTRY OF PLAN SEC GEN CHERKAOUI) EXPOSED GROUP TO USEFUL DISCUSSION OF MOROCCAN POLITICAL CLIMATE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS. IN RARE DISPLAY OF CANDOR ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT, CHERKAOUI EXPRESSED GOM RECOGNITION THAT MAJOR UPHEAVALS IN THE COUNTRY'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC WERE POSSIBLE IF THE EXISTING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COULD NOT BE NARROWED AND ASSERTED SOCIAL OBJECTIVES WILL CHARACTERIZE FORTHCOMING FIVE YEAR PLAN NOW IN DRAFT.

3. EQUALLY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS OCCURRED DURING GROUP'S VISIT TO MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, PARTICULARLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY, AND DURING SERIES OF INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTIONS IN HOMES OF EMOBOFFS. THESE ASSURED BROADEST POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH MOROCCAN TV JOURNALISTS, FOREIGN MEDIA REPS, AND THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATS. AN OVERNIGHT EXCURSION TO FEZ JUNE 2 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GAVE THE GROUP AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH KEY CONTACTS IN AN IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL CENTER, INCLUDING M. BENNIS (SEC GEN IN FEZ GOVERNOR MRABET'S OFFICE) AND ALI OUEZZANI (CHIEF OF MOROCCO RADIO-TELEVISION OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA). AN AMERICAN-STYLE BARBEQUE SPONSORED BY THE EMBASSY'S YOUNG COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THE ACYPL VISIT ON A RELAXED NOTE AND AT THE SAME TIME ENABLED THE MISSION TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNGER ELEMENTS AMONG ITS CONTACT GROUP.

4. AMBASSADOR GAVE DINNER MAY 31 IN GROUP'S HONOR WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL GOM POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OFFICIALS, TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF BUSINESS AND PRESS COMMUNITY PLUS COUNTRY TEAM. IN INTRODUCING ACYPL MEMBERS TO MOROCCAN GUESTS, AND IN AFTER-DINNER REMARKS, AMBASSADOR MADE POINT THAT GROUP WAS IN MOROCCO NOT ONLY TO LEARN ABOUT MOROCCAN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE BUT TO STIMULATE RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. SPRITED AND USEFUL EXCHANGE ON FULL RANGE OF US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND GLOBAL ISSUES OCCURRED DURING INFORMAL SIT-ON-THE-FLOOR "DINER-DEBAT" IN PAO'S HOME JUNE 1. ON THAT OCCASION SOME 20 MOROCCAN PARTICIPANTS DRAWN FROM "COMERS" IN UNIVERSITY FACULTIES, FROM PRIVATE SECTOR, AND MEDIA ENGAGED THE AMERICAN VISITORS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS WHICH COVERED THE WESTERN SAHARA, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ROLE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG, STATUS OF "MOROCCANIZATION" OF FOREIGN INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT, EXTENT TO WHICH COERCIVE TECHNIQUES MAY HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN, US POLICY IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS OF MOROCCO, MOROCCAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE FACTORS WHICH ACCOUNT FOR LEFTIST SENTIMENT IN THE MOROCCAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. FREE-WHEELING IN THE EXTREME, DISCUSSION PROMPTED ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOROCCAN PARTICIPANT (MOHAMMED ABOU TALIB, SENIOR FACULTY OF LETTERS PROFESSOR) TO OBSERVE, "THIS WHOLE IDEA OF BRINGING A DELEGATION OF AMERICANS LIKE THIS ONE TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS OF MOROCCANS IS THE SINGLE MOST MEANINGFUL EVENT OF ITS KIND THAT I CAN REMEMBER", A SENTIMENT ECHOED BY OTHER CONTACTS OVER COURSE OF 4-DAY VISIT.

6. DURING FINAL 1-1/2 HOUR BRIEFING SESSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, DELEGATION EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FULL EMBASSY PROGRAM AND NOTED WITH PARTICULAR PLEASURE CANDOR AND OPENNESS WHICH AHD CHARACTERIZED THEIR MOROCCAN INTERLOCUTORS AT ALL LEVELS. DISCUSSING PROSPECTS FOR BUILDING ON THIS VISIT, ACYPL GROUP URGED THAT "RECIPROCAL" GROUP OF YOUNG MOROCCANS SOON COME TO US. SUCH A GROUP, IN ACYPL VIEW, SHOULD NUMBER NO MORE THAN SIX AND SHOULD INCLUDE AT LEAST TWO ACTIVE POLITICIANS, TOGETHER WITH GOM OFFICIALS, YOUNGER BUSINESSMEN, AND PERHAPS MEDIA REPS. ACYPL MEMBERS SUGGESTED MONTH OF APRIL, 1978 AS GOOD TIME FOR MOROCCAN RETURN VISIT AND STAED THAT ACYPL WOULD BUDGET TO MEET ALL IN-COUNTRY EXPENSES OF GROUP PROVIDED VISITORS OR SOME THIRD PARTY CAN COVER TRANSATLANTIC FARES.

7. COMMENT. WE CONSIDER THE ACYPL VISIT HERE AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. IN LARGE MEASURE THIS HAPPY RESULT DUE TO CU AND ACYPL SELECTION OF EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH-CALIBRE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE WARMTH, INTEREST AND INTELLIGENCE MADE THEM SUPERB REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICA. VISIT IS IDEAL DEVICE FOR RAMIFYING PRESENT US-MOROCCAN EXCHANGE FUNCTIONS, AND WE SHALL BE EXPLORING WAYS AND MEANS OF PROMOTING RETURN VISIT TO US OF A

MOROCCAN "YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS" GROUP (NEWLY ORGANIZED
ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF MOROCCAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS
MAY WELL HAVE ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS CONNECTION). MEANWHILE,
OUR HATS ARE OFF TO CU AND ACYPL EFFORTS ON
OUR BEHALF AND STRONGLY URGE THAT MOROCCO BE INCLUDED
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